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LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic in connection with the ongoing aggression of the Republic of Armenia in the Agdam and Fizuli districts of Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

On 23 July 1993, the Armenian armed forces captured the town of Agdam in the Azerbaijani Republic. Barbaric air bombardment, rocket artillery shelling and continuous attacks on Agdam from three directions led to the fall of this large town in south-western Azerbaijan. Hundreds of dead and wounded, mass destruction and a town that has been half burnt to the ground - such is the tragic outcome of the latest crime perpetrated by the Armenian aggressors.

A critical situation has also developed in the vicinity of the town of Fizuli. On 23 July, Armenian troops, following an offensive in that direction, captured three settlements immediately adjoining the town, blocking the road from Fizuli to Djebrail thus posing a real threat to the 250,000 inhabitants of the Djebrail, Zangelan and Kubatly districts, which are cut off from the remainder of the Republic's territory. The town of Fizuli itself is caught in the three-directional crossfire of rocket artillery shelling from the surrounding hills. The number of civilian casualties is growing.

This is Armenia's response to Security Council resolution 822 (1993) and to the peace initiative of the "nine". This is the reaction, in deeds rather than words, to the mission to the region by the Chairman of the Minsk Conference on Nagorny Karabakh of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Mr. Rafaelli.

Armenia, disguising its unpunished aggression against Azerbaijan as mere moral support and humanitarian assistance to the Armenians of Nagorny Karabakh, is setting an example of cynicism and hypocrisy for the whole world. Obviously, the "success" of the Armenian armed forces and the "achievements" of Armenian diplomacy in the international sphere, which seeks to convince the entire world that the Armenians of Nagorny Karabakh are struggling for their survival, would be inconceivable if the international community did not view the shameless and brazen policy of the Armenian leaders and those who support them, the self-styled leaders of the Armenian community in Nagorny Karabakh, with such indifference. Apparently, there are those who assume that Azerbaijan's population and half of its territory can be sacrificed in order to "safeguard the security" of the Armenians in Nagorny Karabakh.

Azerbaijan thinks differently, however. It would be naïve to assume that the Azerbaijani people will resign itself forever to the occupation of its lands. The liberation of the territory seized by the Armenian armed forces is, for Azerbaijan, only a matter of time, while the impediments to a political settlement created by Armenia's aggressive policy only postpone the day of peace which is surely the dream of people besides those of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan believes that the time has come to call things by their rightful names. It is to be hoped that the international organizations whose mission is to safeguard peace and security, which have closed their eyes to the aggressors's deeds long enough and made all sorts of concessions to Armenia and to the Armenian community in Nagorny Karabakh, having at last given justice its due, will see Armenia's crimes in Azerbaijan for what they are.